

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

international application No.
PCT/US 99/03966

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos. because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos. 1-13 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. ☐ Claims Nos. because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Claims Nos.: 1-13

Claim 1 on which claims 1-12 are dependent is directed to an antibody based (Ab) fusion protein comprising an Ig-portion linked to a non-Ig protein portion and having a longer circulating half-life than the said non-Ig protein portion when unlinked.

It appears that this claimed subject-matter has no support in the description. No Ab fusion protein has been compared therein to its corresponding non-Ig protein portion as to their respective circulating half-lives (the only comparisons reported [see page 13, lines 1-3, and page 16, lines 8-9] concern modified Ab fusion proteins and their corresponding unmodified Ab fusion proteins).

Such a lack of support renders the subject-matter of claims 1-13 inconsistent with the content of the description.

The said inconsistent is such that carrying out a meaningful search with regard to the said claims has not been possible.

It is to be noted that even if the subject-matter of claims 1-13 would have been consistent with the content of the description, a meaningful search could not have been carried out as in the documents of the state of the art relating to Ab fusion proteins comprising an Ig-portion linked to a non-Ig protein portion (see the documents cited in the present report) the respective circulating half-lives of both the Ab fusion protein and the non-Ig protein portion thereof measured in the same experimental conditions are not indicated, a circumstance which renders any comparison impossible.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 99/03966

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9733617	A	18-09-1997	AU 2527397 A	01-10-1997
WO 9700319	A	03-01-1997	AU 6011096 A	15-01-1997
			CA 2224646 A	03-01-1997
			EP 0832219 A	01-04-1998